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heard." He also writes that "with us *A. Thelypteris* ripened this year (1894) in the early part of September, and *A. Noveboracense* in July or August," confirming my own observations on the relative differences in the development and ripening of the three ferns.

From Prof. Trelease of the Missouri Botanical Garden I have received specimens collected on Poplar Bluff, S. E. Missouri, August 15, 1875, by George W. Letterman, and at Sapulpa, Indian Territory Sept. 24, 1894, by B. F. Bush, no. 847, ticket marked "common."

There are a few forked veins in the lowermost pair of pinnæ on Mr. Bush's specimen, and it will be noticed that the date for Mr. Letterman's is the earliest yet recorded.

The species has also been collected by Mr. Merritt L. Fernald, of the Cambridge herbarium, in Georgetown, Maine, in a different locality from that recorded by myself.

Erratum.—By a careless inadvertence, for which I alone am responsible, in my account of the habitat of this species (BOT. GAZ. 19: 496-1894) Seabrook is made to appear in Essex co., Mass., instead of New Hampshire, where it belongs; Essex co., Mass., should follow Salisbury.—GEORGE E. DAVENPORT, *Medford, Mass.*

Dr. Joseph Schröeter. — This eminent mycologist died at his home in Breslau, Dec. 12, 1894. His name and works are well known to American botanists, who regarded him as a leader in the departments of knowledge which he cultivated. The following account of his life is taken in the main from an article in the *Botanisches Centralblatt*, by Dr. H. Kionka of Breslau.

Schröeter was born in Potschkau in Upper Silesia, March 14, 1837, and was therefore only in his fifty-eighth year at time of his death. As a boy he was fond of plants, but being the son of a physician he naturally devoted himself to medicine, upon the completion of his gymnasium studies. He took his doctor's degree in Berlin at the age of twenty-two, and then entered military service. He was soon made an army surgeon, and in 1865 was promoted to the position of staff surgeon in the royal grenadiers stationed at Breslau.

During these years he still found time to pursue his botanical studies. When the Plant-Physiological Institute was established at Breslau in 1866, under the management of Prof. Cohn, Schröeter became the first investigator to enter, and maintained his connection with the institution up to the time of his death. He at first assisted Professors Cohn and Koch with their famous studies upon bacteria, and published a number of his own researches in this line, but was soon diverted to the study of the fungi, especially parasitic forms, which he made his life work. He opened Cohn's classical series of *Beiträge zur Biologie der*

Pflanzen in 1870 with a monograph upon *Synchytria*. He now contributed also to the botanical section of the *Schlesischen Gesellschaft für vaterlandische Cultur*.

When the Franco-German war broke out in 1870 he followed his regiment to the field, and was in a number of engagements, including the battle of Sedan. His services were recognized both by promotion and decoration. In 1874 he was again stationed at Breslau, and returned to his studies of the fungi with greater zest than ever. In the following year upon the occasion of the half century jubilee of Göppert's doctorate, he undertook the elaboration of the fungi for the cryptogamic flora of Silesia, a work inaugurated by the *Gesellschaft* already mentioned.

This great work could not have been carried out by one better fitted for it, as he had himself first collected most of the species, and had first described many of them. Unfortunately it was not quite finished at his death. The first volume was published in 1889, and of the second and last volume three *lieferungen* still remained unpublished. The necessary manuscript was ready, however, with the exception of about one signature. The portion to be supplied embraced part of the fungi imperfecti, which must now be prepared by other hands.

Through this work and a number of monographs of separate groups of fungi he has become known at home and abroad as one of the foremost mycologists of the time. He had begun the elaboration of the fungi for the monumental work of Enzler and Prantl, *Die natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien*, but had only prepared a few orders. Besides this he had recently begun to issue the *Pilze Schlesiens* in exsiccati, to serve as a basis to his cryptogamic flora of Silesia. Of this only 400 numbers in an edition of about twenty-five copies had been issued at time of his death.

In 1886 Schröter qualified as a member of the Breslau medical faculty in the department of mycology and bacteriology, and in 1890 became a professor. In 1892 he was entirely relieved from military service.

He was an exceedingly industrious collector, and in the last few years, especially, extended his travels over a wide range of country, covering all of Europe from Italy to the North Cape. Last summer he undertook a scientific expedition to Asia Minor, stopping at Cyprus, and especially remaining in Cilicia and the Taurus mountains. In the unhealthy climate he contracted malaria, which developed into a fever upon his return home. During the autumn there was a recurrence of the fever from time to time, and in one of these attacks, which kept him upon a sick bed for only a few hours, he expired.

Schröeter was much beloved, and greatly appreciated for his high attainments by those who knew him best. To the scientific world his loss is well nigh irreparable.—J. C. A.

Collinsia bicolor.—While studying the genus *Collinsia* with reference to future revision, certain peculiarities of structure in the flower of *C. bicolor* have come to light which seem to be of sufficient significance to merit some mention in the GAZETTE.

At the point where the upper pair of stamens become free from the corolla, the wings of the filaments turn into the sac of the corolla. After continuing attached to the corolla by one edge for a little way they end in free tips which are somewhat bearded. These tips point out into the sac so that they almost meet over the rudimentary fifth stamen or gland at the base of the sac.

The conclusion arrived at after careful study of the question was that their function is to guard the nectar gland. The utility of such a device can readily be seen. The four stamens are declined toward the lower lip of the corolla and clasped by its middle lobe; so that the insect must enter by this path in order to reach the pollen. But the throat is so large and with such a wide opening that the insect could easily enter and reach the gland without coming in contact with the pollen, were it not for these guards, which effectually bar this road to the nectar.

The same phenomenon has been observed in milder form in *C. franciscana*. Both species are easily distinguished from all others by this peculiarity.—ALICE E. KEENER, *Herbarium Lake Forest University*.